

# Common Low-cost IM Explosive Program



**November 30, 2011**

Department of the Army  
Office of the Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems  
Attn: Mr. Charlie Patel  
Tel 973-724-8507 Fax 973-724-2048  
charlie.patel@us.army.mil  
Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey 07806-5000

Report Documentation Page		Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.		
1. REPORT DATE <b>30 NOV 2011</b>	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2011 to 00-00-2011</b>
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>Common Low-cost IM Explosive Program</b>		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
		5b. GRANT NUMBER
		5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)	5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
	5e. TASK NUMBER	
	5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>Office of the Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems,PEO-AMMO, PM-CAS,B172,Picatinny Arsenal,NJ,07806-5000</b>		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
		11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>		
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <b>Presented at the Partners in Environmental Technology Technical Symposium &amp; Workshop, 29 Nov ? 1 Dec 2011, Washington, DC. Sponsored by SERDP and ESTCP</b>		
14. ABSTRACT <b>One of the tenets of the Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems Mission is to perform life-cycle management of tube-launched indirect fire munitions. Contained within this area are high explosive (HE) projectiles and cartridges for artillery and mortar applications. There are a total of fifteen HE projectiles: four for 105mm artillery, three for 155mm artillery three for 60mm, three for 81mm and two for 120mm mortar. All of these HE cartridges use either TNT or Comp-B fill. The PM decided to take a holistic review of pursuing IM and elected to execute the Common Low-cost Insensitive Munitions Explosive program. The CLIMEx Program Goals are as follows: Primary Goal ? Selection of one single common explosive fill for all artillery and mortar products; Secondary Goal ? Selection of two explosive fills, one that is common for replacement of TNT and another that is common for replacement of Comp B. During Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the CLIMEx program, a world-wide search of candidates was completed. During Phase 1, twenty three candidates were subjected to a battery of IM tests as per the specified protocol. The test protocol was established to account for screening candidates in a fair manner and at a affordable cost and schedule impact. Based on the results of the tests 3 candidates were identified as suitable to replace TNT and one candidate was identified as a candidate to replace Comp B. The three TNT candidates were further evaluated in Phase 2. IMX-101 was chosen as the TNT replacement candidate and IMX-104 was selected as Comp B replacement candidate. This paper will present an overview (background, protocol and results) of the U.S. Army's program to qualify a low cost, common IM explosive to replace TNT and Comp B along with the environment, safety and occupational health aspects of the new formulations.</b>		
15. SUBJECT TERMS		

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	18. NUMBER OF PAGES <b>33</b>	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>			

---

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT GENERATION INSENSITIVE MUNITIONS:  
A SUCCESS STORY**

MR. CHARLIE PATEL  
U.S. Army, PEO-AMMO, PM-CAS  
B172  
Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07806-5000  
(973) 724-8507  
charlie.patel@us.army.mil

One of the tenets of the Project Manager for Combat Ammunition Systems Mission is to perform life-cycle management of tube-launched indirect fire munitions. Contained within this area are high explosive (HE) projectiles and cartridges for artillery and mortar applications. There are a total of fifteen HE projectiles: four for 105mm artillery, three for 155mm artillery, three for 60mm, three for 81mm and two for 120mm mortar. All of these HE cartridges use either TNT or Comp-B fill. The PM decided to take a holistic review of pursuing IM and elected to execute the Common Low-cost Insensitive Munitions Explosive program. The CLIMEx Program Goals are as follows: Primary Goal – Selection of one single common explosive fill for all artillery and mortar products; Secondary Goal – Selection of two explosive fills, one that is common for replacement of TNT and another that is common for replacement of Comp B.

During Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the CLIMEx program, a world-wide search of candidates was completed. During Phase 1, twenty three candidates were subjected to a battery of IM tests as per the specified protocol. The test protocol was established to account for screening candidates in a fair manner and at a affordable cost and schedule impact. Based on the results of the tests, 3 candidates were identified as suitable to replace TNT and one candidate was identified as a candidate to replace Comp B. The three TNT candidates were further evaluated in Phase 2. IMX-101 was chosen as the TNT replacement candidate and IMX-104 was selected as Comp B replacement candidate.

This paper will present an overview (background, protocol and results) of the U.S. Army's program to qualify a low cost, common IM explosive to replace TNT and Comp B along with the environment, safety and occupational health aspects of the new formulations.

# Insensitive Munitions (IM)

## Roadmap: Transition Toward Full Compliance

### Legacy Ammo

17 Major Munitions-related Incidents since 1926  
(600+ Casualties / 1,600+ Injuries / \$4B+ Losses)



Port Chicago (1944)



USS Forrestal (1967)



Camp Doha (1991)

Afghanistan (Sep 2009)  
MRAP carrying sixteen 60mm M768 Mortars hit by IED  
IM design resulted in the fuze separating from the shell  
body preventing high order detonations thus saving the  
lives of the Soldiers.



Lake Denmark (1926)



Camden, AR (Nov 2007)  
MACS LAP-facility Fire  
3.3 tons of Energetics – Burned only  
No Injuries, Building remained

### IM Improvements

60mm M720A1/M768 Mortar (PAX-21 Explosive)  
155mm MACS Propelling Charge  
PM-CAS Common IM Explosive (CLIMEx)



81mm Slow cook-off results  
With IMX-104  
Type V – Burning Reactions



Unit's SPC Alan Ng  
with his father Peter  
Ng, PM CAS-ARDEC  
Engineer IM  
programs.

### Fully-IM Fielded

105mm M1 IM (IMX-101 Explosive)  
155mm M795 & M1122 (IMX-101 Explosive)  
60/81/120mm Mortar (IMX-104 Explosive)



# Common Low-cost IM Explosives

Joint program with Army (PM-CAS) & USMC (PM-AMMO)

## Artillery HE Projectiles



**Baseline Explosive = TNT**

**TNT filled Projectiles FAIL all IM Tests**

## ➤ **ISSUE:**

- ✓ TNT & Comp-B explosives have poor IM results
- ✓ Mortar and Artillery HE items require IM Waiver
  - Specific to individual program requirements
  - Lacked commonality
  - Some IM improvements – still need waiver
  - NTIB Cost Impacts

## Mortar HE Cartridges



**Baseline Explosive = Comp-B**

**Comp-B filled Cartridges FAIL all IM Tests**

*(except 60mm passes 1 of 6, BI)*

## ➤ **CORRECTIVE ACTION:**

- ✓ Investigate new IM Explosives with intention to insert into production in near-term

**Primary Objective is to provide a Common IM Fill**

**-- or --**

**one common TNT replacement (Artillery)...  
...and one common Comp-B replacement (Mortars)**

# Goals of the Common Low-cost Insensitive Munitions Explosive Program

- **Effective**
  - ✓ Maintain Lethality with minimal or no degradation
- **Less Sensitive**
  - ✓ If not fully compliant, must show improvement over Baseline explosive
- **Affordable**
  - ✓ Artillery Cost Drivers = Steel Body Material & Explosive Fill
  - ✓ Mortar Cost Drivers = Steel Body Material, Fuze & Propelling Charges
- **Producible within the National Technology and Industrial Base**
  - ✓ Infrastructure
  - ✓ Raw Ingredients
  - ✓ Explosive formulation
  - ✓ Projectile Load, Assemble & Pack (LAP)
- **Other Considerations**
  - ✓ Demilitarization
  - ✓ Environmental
  - ✓ Intellectual Property Rights

# Common Low-cost IM Explosive Program

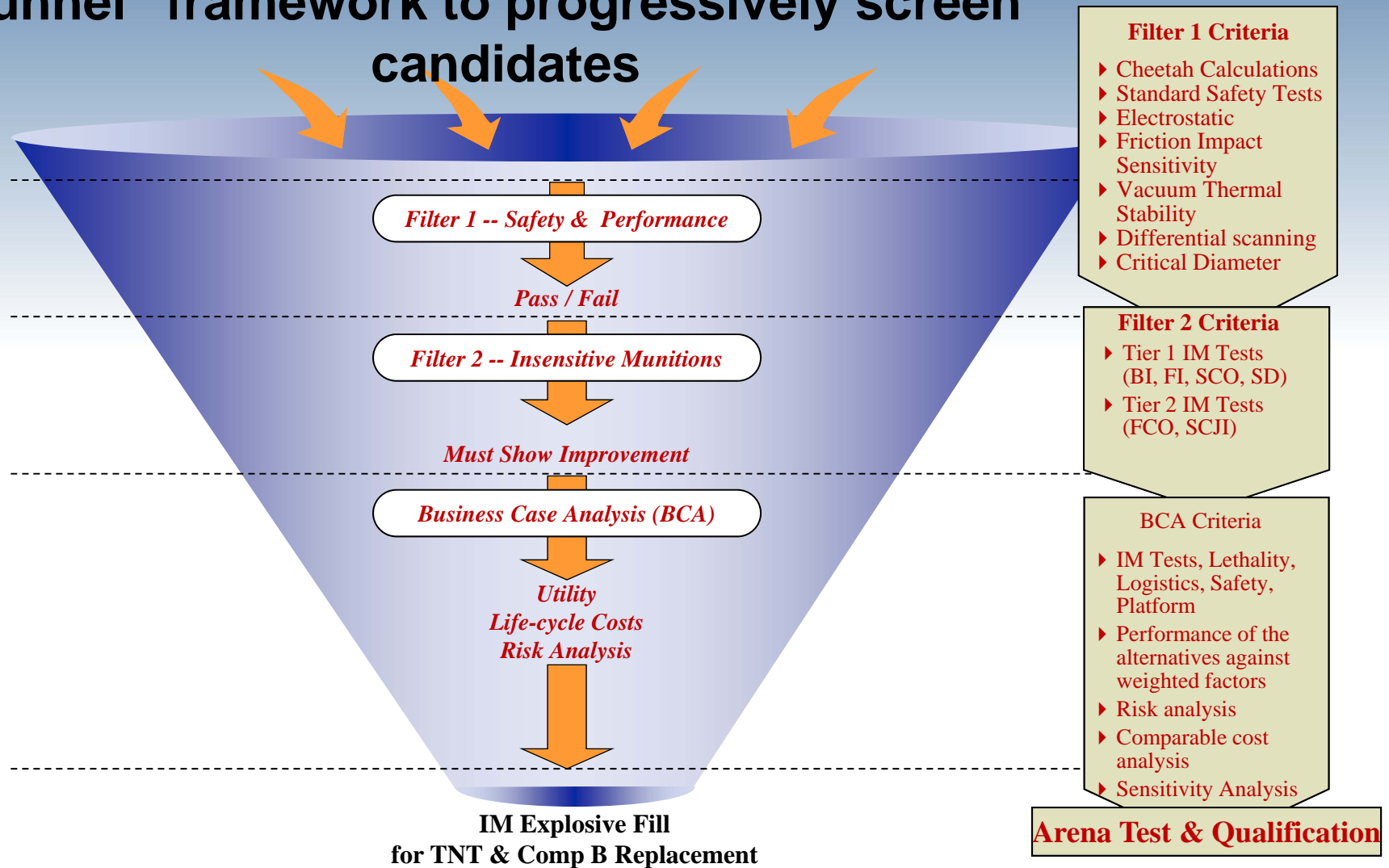
## ➤ Value to the Warfighter

- ✓ **Drastically increase Safety from unplanned stimuli**
  - ✓ Increases Soldier Survivability
  - ✓ Increases Equipment Survivability
- ✓ **Maintains Lethality**
- ✓ **Significantly improve their ability to store and move ammunition**
- ✓ **Safer transport on combat loaded vehicles, air cargo and Navy ammo ships**



# Common Low-cost IM Explosive Program

“Funnel” framework to progressively screen candidates



# Replacement Candidates

## ➤ 23 IM explosive candidates

- 12 for TNT replacement, 11 for Comp B replacement

### ➤ Melt-pour

- ✓ Traditional Ingredients
  - RDX
  - HMX
- ✓ Less Sensitive Explosive Filler
  - NTO
  - NQ
- ✓ Less Sensitive Energetic binder
  - DNAN
  - Nitrate Salts
- ✓ Reduced Nitramines (Aluminized)

### ➤ Cast-cure

- ✓ Inert binder
  - RDX
  - IRDX
  - Rounded RDX

### ➤ Press-fill

- ✓ Inert binder with RDX
  - (Redesign of metal parts – Not Evaluated)

### ➤ 155mm HE selected for screening TNT replacement candidates

- 9 candidates tested => IMX-101

### ➤ 120mm HE selected for screening Comp B replacement candidates

- 9 candidates tested => IMX-104

# M795 IM Projectile Design

155mm, 78 lb hi-frag steel body loaded with 24 lbs of HE

- M795 IM Design
  - IMX-101 Main Fill (24 lbs)
  - PBXN-9 Supplementary Charge (0.3 lbs)
  - Warhead Venting
    - Meltable Liner
    - Meltable Fuze Plug
    - Modified Pallet Design



# IM Tests & Passing Requirements

**FUEL FIRE** Such as a truck or an aircraft on a flight deck



Passing  
Criteria

FCO

Burn

**NEARBY HEAT** Such as fire in adjacent magazine, store or vehicle.



SCO

Burn

**BULLETS** Such as small arms from terrorists or combat



BI

Burn

**FRAGMENTS** Such as from bombs, artillery, or IEDs



FI

Burn

**SYMPATHETIC REACTION** Such as detonation of adjacent stores



SR

Low  
pressure  
burst

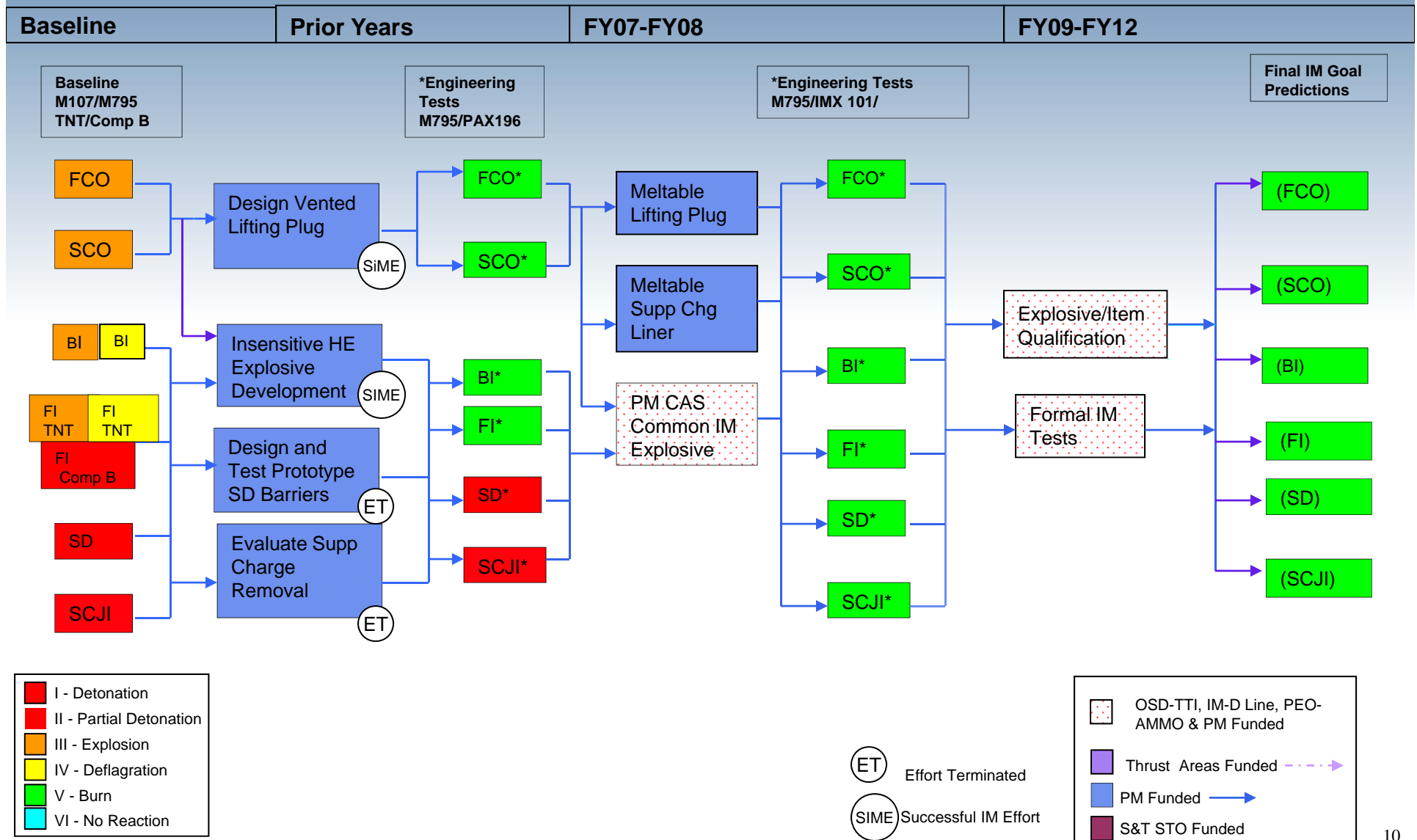
**SHAPED CHARGE**  
**JET RPG, Bomblets,**  
**ATGMs: Combat or**  
**terrorists**



SCJI

Low  
pressure  
burst

# 155mm M107/M795 IM Compliant Roadmap



# Implementation Approach

- Explosive Producibility - Assure explosives can be robustly manufactured in production scale and ingredient supplies are available
  - 180K lbs of IMX-101 produced at Holston Army Ammunition Plant
- Load, Assemble & Pack - Assure projectiles can be loaded without defects.
  - Loading process developed at ARDEC – Picatinny Arsenal
  - Technology transitioned for high volume loading trials at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant



# Implementation Approach (cont'd)

- Venting - IM venting technology implemented in systems design to pass thermal tests



Standard  
Lifting Plug  
Will Not Pass (Type III)



Partial Venting  
(Type IV)



SCO



FCO

- Energetic Material Qualification - Ensure explosives are safe to process, handle, store, and transport.
  - IMX-101 explosive formulation fully qualified by U. S. Army



12 Litre Cook-Off Test

# Implementation Approach (cont.)

- Initiation Reliability - Reconfigure initiation system to reliably initiate the IM explosives
  - Initiation trials performed to confirm performance and reliability



- Qualification of End Item Munitions - Assess
  - Safety
  - Performance
  - Reliability

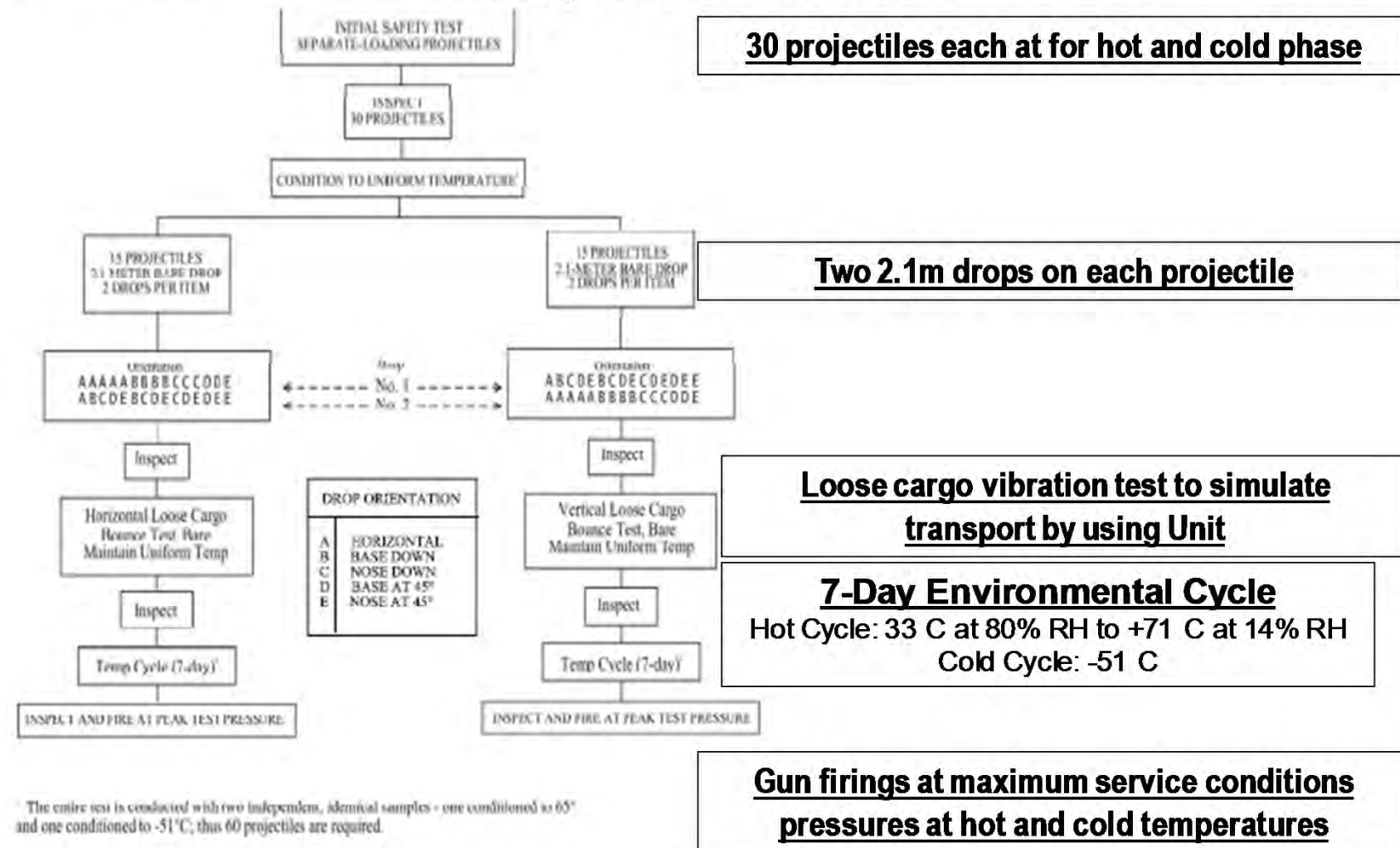
# M795 IM Qualification Plan

[illegible]

# Initial Safety Test

ITOP 4-2-504(1)  
22 September 2005

## Safety Test – Phase 1



\* The entire test is conducted with two independent, identical samples - one conditioned to 63° and one conditioned to -51°C; thus 60 projectiles are required.

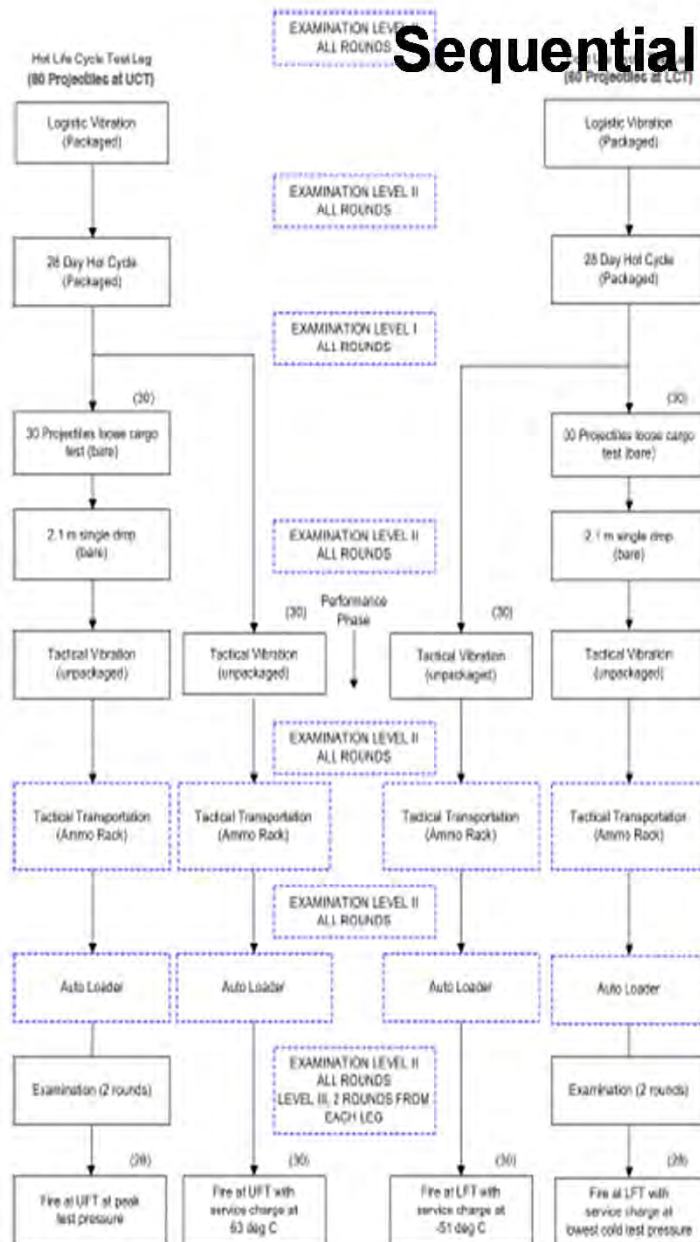
\* The temperature cycle for the 63°C and the -51°C samples is B3.

Figure 1. Initial Safety Test for Separate-Loading Projectiles.



# Performance & Safety Tests

## Sequential Environmental Test



**60 projectiles each at for hot and cold phase**

### Logistic Vibration

Transportation (land, air, and sea) from the factory to overseas storage depot and to the Ammunition Supply Point

### Environmental Cycle

28 Day Hot Cycle: 33 C at 80% RH to +71 C at 14% RH  
14 Day Cold Cycle: -51 C

### Loose Cargo Vibration Test

Transport by using Unit

### One 2.1m drops on each projectile

Accidental drop during unloading by using Unit

### Gun firings

Subject the items to severe interior and exterior ballistic environments by firings at maximum service conditions pressures at hot and cold temperatures

**Pass**

# Adverse Environment & Logistics Tests

## Supplementary Environmental Tests

### **High-humidity and Fungus**

Humidity: 10 cycles at 30 C to 60 C at 95% RH

Fungus: 28 days at 30 C at 95% RH

16 rounds

Gun firings at top service charge

**Pass**

### **Solar Radiation**

Cycle represents peak conditions of 1120  
W/m<sup>2</sup> solar radiation and 43 C (110 F)

8 rounds

Gun firings at top service charge

**Pass**

### **Thermal Stability**

48 hours at 75C

**Pass**

### **12 Meter Drop Test**

10 rounds each at hot and cold temperatures

**Pass**

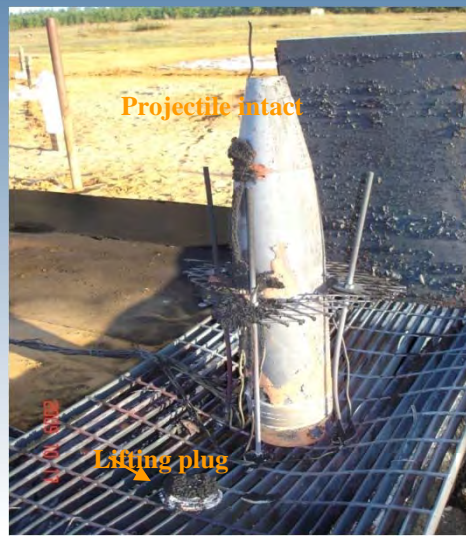


# Summary of M795 IM Test Results for IMX-101 JSIMTP/AIMB Scores

Test	Official Tests Scores	Notes on test results
Fast Cook-off	V	Single round and pallet configuration
Slow Cook-off	V	Heating rate is 3.3°C/hr
Bullet Impact into HE	IV	Type V if scored to criteria that existed at program start
Fragment Impact into HE	V	2,532 m/s
Sympathetic Reaction	Pass	Confined and unconfined
Shaped Charge Jet Impact	Pass	LX-14 conditioned jet

# M795 IM Fast Cook-off Results

- Single Round



- No blast overpressure
- No hazardous fragments beyond 15m.

Type V

- Palletized





# M795 IM Slow Cook-off Results



**Type V**



**MFP Inside oven**

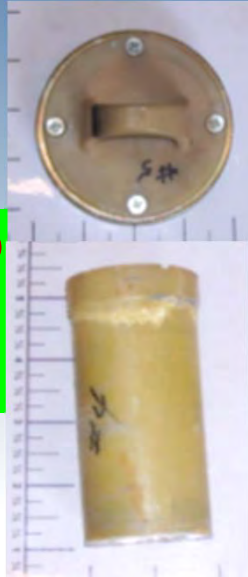


# Bullet Impact Results

- **Three 0.50 caliber AP bullets into HE**

**Type V to AOP-39 Ed 2 Feb 09**

**Type IV to new criteria**

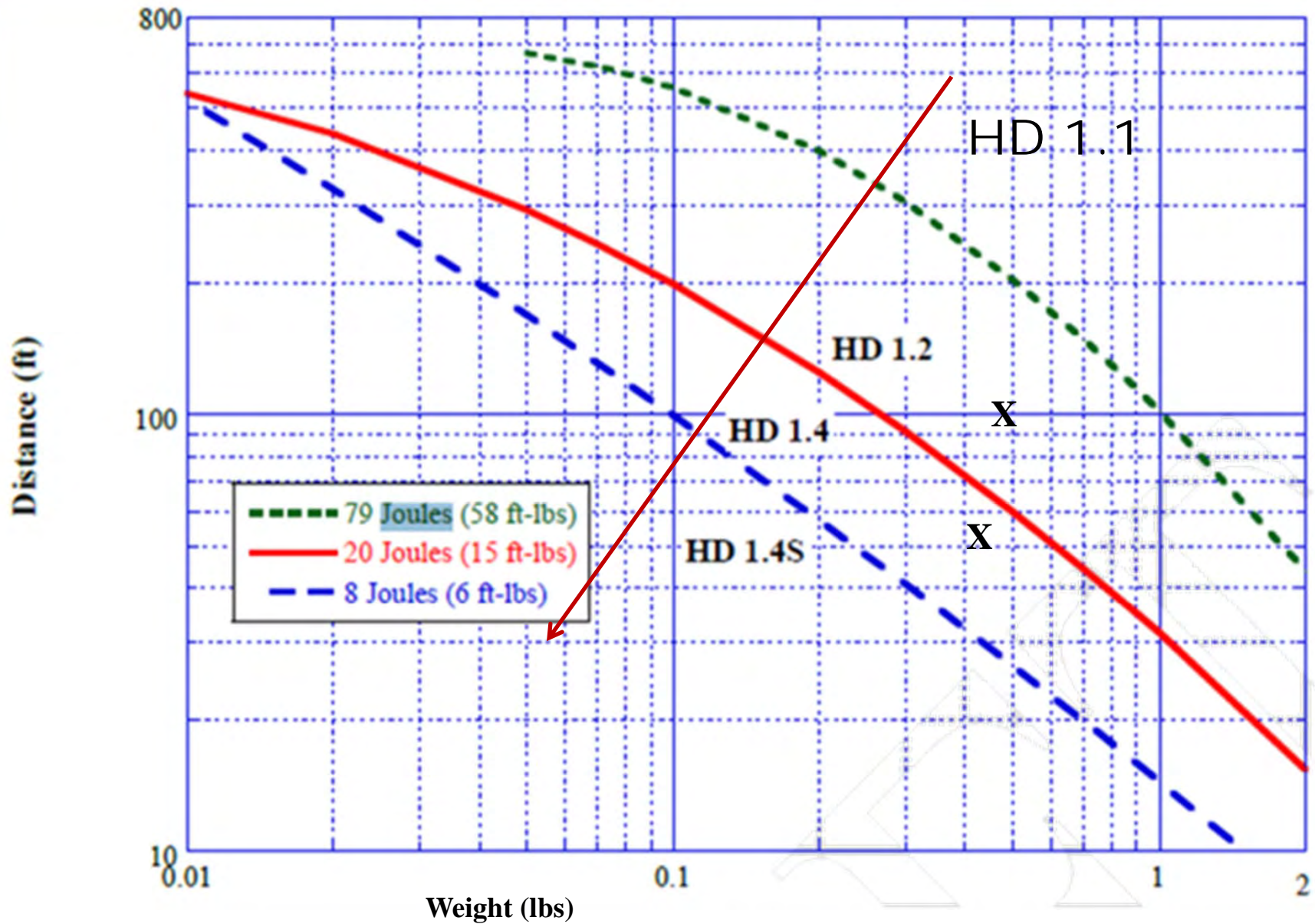


- Smoke on impact from first bullet
- Fireball on impact of second bullet, round broke in 3 large pieces
- Lifting plug (263.6g) and s/c (211.8g) thrown at 31m and 18m respectively
- Large amount of unreacted explosive collected





# Hazardous Fragment Analysis from TB700-2 (Aug 2008)



# Fragment Impact

18.6 gram fragment fired 2,471 m/s into HE  
Round intact, no fragments past 15m



Type V



Supp Chg

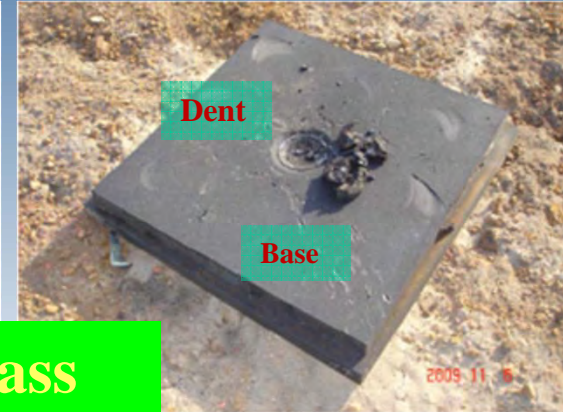




# M795 Unconfined SR Results

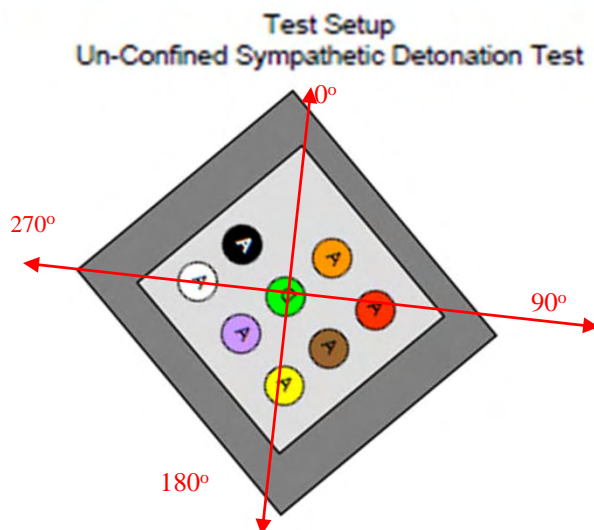


Post Test Acceptors

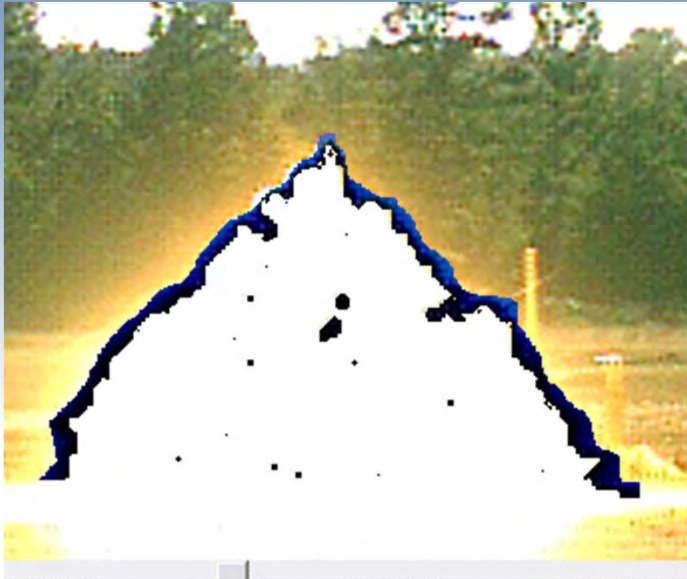


Single dent from donor

Single round calibration



## M795 Unconfined SR Results



Unconfined SR 1ms after  
trigger



Detonation Calibration  
1ms after trigger

Acceptor Rounds do not contribute to dynamic  
reaction!!



# M795 SCJI Results

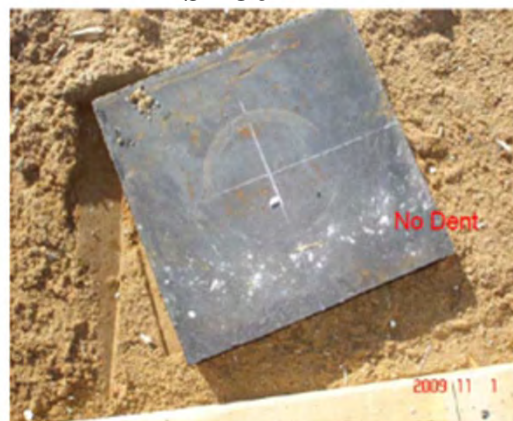
- 81mm Shaped Charge Jet Impact
- Round broke into large pieces some beyond 15m
- No dents on witness plate
- No increase in SC blast overpressure
- Unconsumed Explosive



1<sup>st</sup> shot



2<sup>nd</sup> shot



Pass

# Summary of Tests

IM Test:  
M795 IM Scores\*

FCO	SCO	BI	FI	SD	SCJI
V	V	IV	V	Pass	Pass

Test	Status
Initial firing tests	✓
12m Drop	✓
Initial Safety Test	✓
Sequential Environmental Safety & Performance	✓
Shock Attenuating Lifting Plug	✓
Worn Tube	✓
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	✓
High Humidity & Temp /Fungus	✓
Solar Radiation	✓
Initiation Reliability	✓
Final Firing Table Confirmation	✓
<u>Arena Testing</u>	✓
IM Testing	✓

\* Reaction from IMX-101

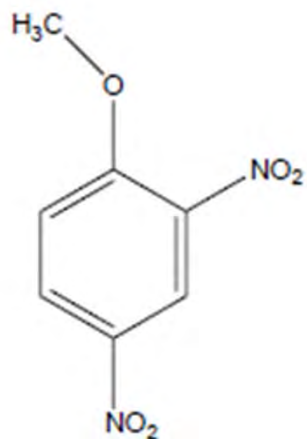
- ✓ **Effective**
  - ✓ Confirmed Ballistic Match
  - ✓ Met M795 Lethality rqmts
- ✓ **Suitable**
  - ✓ IM
  - ✓ Reliable
  - ✓ Human Factors
- ✓ **Supportable**
  - ✓ Maintained same palletization

- ✓ Received Safety Confirmation from Development Test Command
- ✓ Tech Data Package signed 06/2010
- ✓ Achieved HC 1.2.1

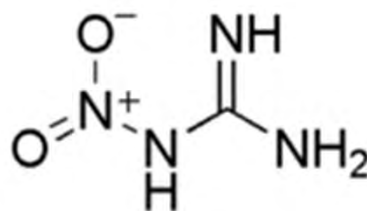
# IMX-101

## ➤ IMX-101 Formulation

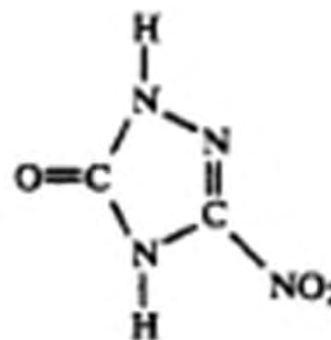
	IMX-101	TNT	Comp B
2,4-Dinitroanisole (DNAN)	43.5 ( $\pm 2$ )	--	--
Nitroguanidine (NQ)	36.8 ( $\pm 2$ )	--	--
3-Nitro-1,2,4-triazol-5-one (NTO)	19.7 ( $\pm 2$ )	--	--
Trinitrotoluene (TNT)	--	100	40
RDX	--	--	60



DNAN



NQ



NTO

# DNAN and NTO ESOH Data: What is Known?

-1-. NQ – Legacy energetic, DNAN – first used in PAX-21, NTO – newest energetic in the formulation

IMX-101: Focus on NTO and IMX-101

Nitroguanidine: LD50 is 10,200 mg/kg

DNAN: LD50 is 199 mg/kg

NTO: . LD50 >2000 mg/kg

Ref: TNT of 795 - 1010 mg/kg, RDX is 68 – 100 mg/kg

-2-. DNAN: OEL established as 0.09 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (TNT: 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>)

-3-. NTO: Revised OEL of 1.6 mg/m<sup>3</sup>

Aquatic C. Daphnia toxicity data for NTO of 830 mg/L (24 hours), and 460 mg/L (48 hours): NTO considered aquatically practically Non-Toxic.

ESOH workshops held in June 2010 and Dec 2010 to review existing data and determine pathways to fill in data gaps



# ESOH Pathforward

TOXICOLOGY STUDY NO. 87-XE-03N3-05: ASSESSING THE  
POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF A NEW  
ENERGETIC MATERIAL: A PHASED APPROACH SEPTEMBER 2005  
Published: December 2007

Conclusion: “Initially, cost for obtaining relevant toxicological and environmental criteria necessary in evaluating the fate and transport of proposed new compounds is low, yet uncertainty is high. As the compounds and subsequent systems are refined, a greater degree of rigor in these data is proposed.”

The ingredients of IMX-101 are currently undergoing rigorous evaluation to determine the ESOH impacts.

\* Updated MSDS published for DNAN, NTO, IMX-101 in October 2011, future updates will be prepared as studies are completed

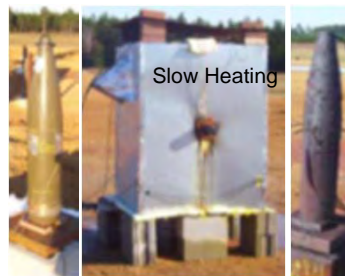
# Summary of M795 Munition

- U. S. Army's CLIMEx competition for the IM M795 155mm Artillery Munition selected IMX-101 as the IM explosive fill from >20 global candidates.
- The legacy TNT filled M795 failed all Army IM safety criteria.
- IMX-101 demonstrated significant IM technology advancements.

IM Test:	Fast Heating	Slow Heating	Bullet Impact	Fragment Impact	Sympathetic Detonation	Shaped Charge Jet Impact
Passing Criteria	Type V	Type V	Type V	Type V	Type III	Type III
M795 Baseline (TNT)	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL
M795 with IMX-101	PASS	PASS	FAIL*	PASS**	PASS	PASS

Note (\*): The M795 passed the original IM Bullet Impact criteria (one 50-cal bullet through the system subcharge) but failed the Army's new BI criteria (three 50-cal bullets through the system subcharge). The lift plug was thrown 50'

(\*\*): The Fragment Impact data represents the IM response from IMX-101.



# Conclusions

- CLIMEx program was successful in identifying and qualifying IMX-101 Explosive as a common insensitive replacement for TNT.
- CLIMEx program was successful in identifying IMX-104 Explosive as a common insensitive replacement for Comp B.
- IM Explosives have demonstrated far superior IM properties.

Quote from US Army Public Health Command (formerly USACHPPM) presented at the Force Health Protection Conference

***The decreased toxicity, coupled with the reduced sensitivity to environmental stimuli and equal performance during testing, make the formulations tested desirable replacements for currently fielded munitions***